

36.
THE
L I F E
OF
THOMAS MUNN, A

Alias, *The Gentleman Brick-maker*, alias, *Tom the Smuggler*, who was executed with *John Hall*, alias *Rich*, on Friday the 6th of April, 1750, at *Chelmsford*, and hung in Chains near *Rumford Gallows*, for robbing the *Yarmouth Mail* on the 20th of July last.

CONTAINING,

A full Account of his Behaviour during a great Number of Years, as a notorious Smuggler, Gamester, &c. Together with the many Planks he play'd at *Canterbury*, *Cranbrook*, and other Parts of *Kent*; at *Horsham*, and other Parts of *Sussex*: Likewise at *Salisbury*, *Bridgwater*, *Bristol*, *Portsmouth*, *Southampton*, *Yarmouth*, *Woodbridge*, *Ipswich*, *Colchester*, and other Parts in *England*; also his Expedition to *France*, &c.

Publisht from the Copy all wrote with his own Hand, and deliver'd by him the Morning of his Execution to Mr. Thomas Venden, Turnkey of His Majesty's Gaol at Chelmsford in Essex, with a particular Desire it might be printed.

To which is added,

A short Account of the Life of *John Hall*, his Accomplice, and the Manner of their being taken: Likewise their Behaviour at the Place of Execution.

L O N D O N :

Printed for THOMAS HARRIS at *Aldersgate*, C. CORBETT in *Flatt-street*, and sold at all the Booksellers and Pamphlet-Shops in Town and Country, and by the Hawkers who carry the News. M.DCC.L.

[Price Four-pence.]

W. Musgrave.





THE
L I F E
O F
THOMAS MUNN.

Written by HIMSELF.



THOMAS MUNN was born at Cranbrook in Kent, in the Year 1705. My Father was a Gardener and Brickmaker, and labour'd very hard for his Bread; I never heard of any dishonest Action by him. I can remember but little of my Mother, she died when I was young. I remember I have gone to the Baptist Meeting with her, and the People of that Religion used to talk to me after her Death, and tell me what a good Woman she was, and advised me to follow her Steps, to which I paid but little Regard. I had two Brothers elder than myself when my Mother died, which

was able to shift for themselves, but they have been both dead some Years. My elder Brother died at *Benenden*, four Miles from *Cranbrook*, and left six or seven Children, I can't say which; but I know there used to be such a Huddle of them, that I can hardly remember the Number. His Widow is now living, and being a very industrious Woman, brought up her Family (by following the Brick-making Business) in an honest, reputable Manner. My other Brother died in the Army, as I have been informed. I have a Sister two Years younger than myself, which is married to a very honest Man, a Carpenter, and they live very happy at *Allington Friary*, near *Ashford* in *Kent*. This Sister my Father put out to nurse when my Mother died, but I was with my Father, and sometimes with my Uncle. I can give but little Account for two or three Years how I lived, but I think my Uncle, who kept a Coffee-house in *Cranbrook*, had Misfortunes, which was unhappy for me, for he had always a great Regard for me. I was then sent back to my Father, and as soon as I was able to do any thing of Work, my Father yoked me into it, and I began to make Brick before I was well able, but I took great Delight in it, which made me be in my Youth a very good Hand.

I have often heard my Father say I was the best Boy he ever had for Work; I have much degenerated since, but I used to be proud of his kind Speeches, and always endeavour'd to deserve them. When Winter came on, we went to *Cranbrook* according to Custom, and my Uncle was in Business again, and kept a little Alehouse, so he took me to assist him, and sometimes sent me to School, which was very lucky for me, for my Father did not know what to do with me in the Winter; but in the Summer, when my Uncle hath desired I should continue with him, and promised to put me

to

to some Trade better than Brick-making, my Father would say, *No, John, I can't spare the Boy, he's as good as a Man to me*; so by that Means I was compelled to be a Brickmaker. My Father and elder Brother had a great Job to do for Sir *John Norris*, and though I was not fifteen Years old, the Men would dispute who should have *Tom* for a Partner, &c. I continued in this Manner for some Years; my Uncle at length married with the Widow *H——d*, who had a large Family, and therefore, I suppose, it was thought the properest Way for *Tom* to shift and learn a Trade to live in the Winter as well as in Summer. It was therefore concluded I should go to my elder Brother *John* to learn to dress Flax, as he dealt in that Commodity. I went and learnt, but did not like it, 'twas too hard for my little Bones; but I got Master of it so much, that I went to my Uncle again, and never did any since. I staid with my Uncle the Remainder of that Winter, and at publick Times assisted as a Drawer; at other Times he would send me to work in the Garden, but that did not do, I never loved any Work but Brick-making.

I used to know my Uncle's Time of coming into the Garden generally, so I chose to give him a Meeting, and then I could go again over the Pales, and away upon some Game or other. I used to take great Delight in the Company of a Man that taught me Tricks upon the Cards. My Uncle knew my Motions well enough, but seldom chastised me; when he did I was very much ashamed, for I was a very meek Boy. I now began to think I could get my own Living, and therefore took my Leave of my kind Uncle, and was above working for my Father or my elder Brother, for I did not like to have any Restraint laid on my whimsical Humour. I dont justly remember the Age I was of when I took this Piece

of Manhood on me, but I think 17. As I said above, I took my Leave, and went to work as a Journeyman with one *Famson* (I think his Name was) at 'Squire *Fuller's* near *Battle* in *Sussex*; that Gentleman took great Delight in me, and would have been so much my Friend as to have me Master of the Work next Year, as he after said, but I had not Wit enough to return the kind Favours I daily received, but to the contrary, absented him in this Manner. A Man that had been Servant to 'Squire *Baker*, and often had seen me at my Uncle's, heard of my being at 'Squire *Fuller's*, this Man, whose Name was *George Collwin*, worked at *Horsmounsbury* a Brickmaking, and being in great Want of a Hand, prevailed on me to leave that worthy Gentleman to follow him, which was a very bad Action, and by this may be learnt how easily a Person may impose upon himself or his best Friends, when he doth Things without due Consideration. As Brick-making is a Business that a good Hand may get more Money at than any other Out-door Labourer can, they most of 'em have as good a Method of spending it; but my good Friend Mr. *Fuller* took more Pains than I deserved, to prevent my acting that Part, and if he knew I had a Friend came to see me, would bid his Servants tell the young Brick-maker not to go to the Alehouse to spend his Money, but come into the House, &c. yet, as I said above, I left him, and went to *Horsmounsbury*, and discharged myself so well, that I was Master of the Work there. The next Year I was guilty of another Folly, I could have managed Mr. *Fuller's* Work, it being carried on in the same Manner my Father used to do (but at *Horsmounsbury* quite different) however, I thought it a pretty Thing to have Men at my Command.

But

But now the Winter came on, and I did not think proper to go to Flax-dressing by no Manner of Means, so spent some Time as a Visiter to my Uncle, then to my Brother; about this Time I learnt to play upon the Flute, and was famous for dancing of Jiggs and Hornpipes, so went into *Sussex* and commenced Dancing-master, and got a Set of young Fellows as undiscerning as myself, that I had taught to caper a little, to go with me to Morris-dancing, as it is called in that County: I was Master of the Ceremony, and was Fool enough to have 'em to some Relations, for which my Uncle gave me a smart Reprimand, and told me the Folly of spending my Time in such an idle Manner, and the Scandal it was to every Body that was related to me, to hear or see me capering about the Country like a Vagabond, and begging for Money to spend idly. I did not much mind the true Constructions my kind Uncle put on my Proceedings, but found I had jigg'd away the Winter better than Flax-dressing, however, I never did so any more.

I went in the *Spring* to carry on the Work I had taken at *Horsmounshurst*, of Mr. *John Durslove*, and for Want of Judgment, spoiled a Kiln of Ware, but my Master being a good, considerate Man, made that up with me, but I had a Man from my Brother, that should have been a Guide to me, but he insinuated himself so far into my Master's Favour, that he thought proper to chuse him to be Master, and I can't say, it was badly judg'd, for he was better qualified for the Business than I was. I was honourably paid, and desired to work as a Journeyman, but my Spirit was above being Servant to a Man that I thought used me ill; so I bought me a Horse, and being well cloathed, was determined not to appear like a common Brick-maker. You may see by this, how the Spirit of Pride will reign in unthinking Youth, when there

is none to curb and instruct them. I soon got work at *Huspar-Point*, in *Suffex*, and was very well respected for my being a merry Fellow, and always Money, for I work'd hard, and lived frugal, and never went into Company, if I thought I was not able to pay my Reckoning; this was more a Spirit of Pride than any thing else, but by this Means, I got to be call'd the Gentleman Brickmaker that kept a Horse. I then got acquainted with *Edward Langly*, Brickmaker, whose Friend lived at *Horsbam* in *Suffex*; he desired me to go to *Horsbam* with him, when the Time of Brick-making was over. I went with him, (it is well, if any Thing is worth Notice that I write) so I don't think it worth while to tell the many Lasses I took Delight to dance with; but I had like to have an old Woman to dance with of about seventy, by the Help of *Edward Langly*, which I shall take Notice of hereafter. When I had pass'd some Time with *Langly* at *Horsbam*, I found his Way of thinking, and mine were quite different, for he used to spend the Winter in the Forrest, as Servant to a Warrener, and advised me to do so likewise; but this I could discern was ten Times worse than Flax-dressing, to lie out of Nights a Coney-catching, and knocking down every Fellow that come near your Nets, or stand a Chance to be heartily banged yourself; saith I, *Ned* this won't do, I can't love any Work but Brick-making, nor I don't intend to learn any other, I see how well the Servants live with my Uncle, certainly, if I try, I shall find Business in some Inn where I shall be sure of good Eating and Drinking, and a warm House, while you are out in the Frost and Snow, and come Home Shivering, and Swearing you have knock'd down 4 or 5 great Fellows, and made as many more run away that came to rob your Master; you may be warm in the Action, but I have no Stomach to learn to Fight in that Way.

So

So I left my Horse with *Ned* to be put to Grass, and took my Leave, and nothing happened worth my Notice 'till I came to *Southampton*, and there I could get no Business, but lodg'd at an Inn, the Son of the People that kept the House was a Barber, and had a Shop belonging to the Inn, was often talking to me, and seem'd to be mighty kind. I went to Bed at the proper Time, had not been long there, but this Barber came into the Room, and desired me to let him stay at the Window, for he expected a Friend to come and call him to go out to be merry that Night, and my Chamber being one Pair of Stairs next the Street, he should soon hear him. I not being very sleepy, we had a great deal of Chat, and he came and set on the Bed; no Friend came; I think, said he, I'll lie down beside you, but then I shall be a-cold, so, if you please, I'll come to Bed; with all my Heart, said I, but I must put my Shirt on, for I lay without my Shirt for fear of any Distemper, and to save my Linen, for I heard it was more safe, and I was terribly afraid of the Small-Pox, or the Itch, &c. So I put my Shirt on, but he saith no, no, don't put your Shirt on, I love to lie with a naked Man, and I'll pull mine off: If you do, you shall lie alone, I said, however, he came to Bed.

He had not been long in Bed, but began to act a Part so Contradictory to Nature that I started up in the Bed, wanted Words to express my Confusion, Surprize, and Passion, at his Propositions, and felt for my Cloaths to get up, he saith, What be you a feeling for young Man? Just as he spoke, I had presence of Mind to make Answer, I am looking for my Penknife, you Dog, for I'll cut your Throat if you don't get up this Moment; I had no Penknife, but it frighten'd my Chap, and he left me: But in the Morning came, and made many Excuses. It was what I never met with before, nor since, but had Philosophy enough in me, to think it a pity to expose

expose a young Man, tho' he pointed at a very heinous Sin; and certainly we that commit Crimes beyond what is common, ought to be pitied, for no Man is certain if he comes under the same Temptation, that he shall be able to withstand it: I don't say this to take the Part of such Sort of Men as my *Peruke-Merchant*.

I left *Southampton*, and went from thence to *Salisbury*, where I heard of a Place at the *Angel*, but then I was at a Loss for a Character, for I had never been a Servant. However, I thought *Squire Baker* would not be angry if it should be known that I made use of his Name; here was a Fault, I own, committed, which, according to Law, might have cost me my Life, for it was down-right Forgery; therefore every Person ought to consider how bad an Act it is to make use of any Person's Name on any Account whatsoever, without a proper Authority. But, in short, I was so imprudent as to write a Character in 'Squire *Baker*'s Name, and it was accepted, and I had the Care of the Wine Cellar. My Master was a very considerate Man, as you may see, for the second Night I came, the House was full of Company, and a grand Supper preparing. I was now in a sad Consternation, for I had never seen such Company, and did not know how to lay the Cloth, and, being head Drawer, it was my Business; if I can see it once done, think I, it will be easy for me after, but to expose myself, may cause me to be turned out of Doors. I therefore hid myself within hearing, and heard my good Master call, *Tom, Drawer, Tom, &c.* 'till I was in Pain, but did not dare to come forth; the Drawer, I believe, says he, is run away a ready, I must lay the Cloth myself, and so he did, thinks I, this will be a good President for me; when I found Supper was going in, I bounc'd out of my Cover, and flew about like a parch'd Pea, on a Drum-head,
and

and my Master was glad of Help, so said nothing to what he ought to have done ; however, I learnt enough that Night to please very well, and in a few Nights after we had many Noblemen and Members of Parliament, for at that Time it was a House of great Business. These Gentlemen went to Gaming, and by Chance dropped a Guinea ; I was call'd up to look for it, and not finding it was much blamed, and they was so positive I had it, that they examin'd all my Pockets; by Chance I had never a Guinea, but I could not be without Money of my own, or my Master's. This happen'd to be lucky having no Guinea, and gave Satisfaction, but just as I was going out I saw a Hat lie on the Floor, I took it up as my Duty, and under it was this famous Guinea that I had been tax'd with, I put it in my Pocket, for I thought if I had given it, and told the Truth, they would not have believed me ; but in this I was very wrong, for I should have consulted my Master, and he would have set Things right, for it was not my Property, therefore a bad Action.

I went on very well, and pleased my Master, but my Mistrefs was a very unhappy Woman in her Temper, and that caused them to change their Servants often. It chanced one Night some Towns-men playing at Cards, at last were for playing in a publick Room, a Pint of Wine a Game, at Putt, &c. My Master was in their Company, and it grew late, and but little Company in the House, I asked my Master to give me Leave to play with a Master Taylor that had been so lucky as to win some Pints of Wine, and made himself mighty merry on the Account ; my Master replied, *Why, Tom, we don't practise these Things in my House, but you shall have your Fancy, and if you can beat him it will be Pleasure to us all, for he seems to laugh at us much ;* well, I attacked Mr. Staytape, and

won about 7s. 6d. all the Money he had, four or five and twenty. Pints of Wine, 3 l. 10s. on a Note of Hand, and his Coat and Waistcoat; this was Game enough, and away trudg'd the poor Taylor to the Gate without his Cloaths, and was going Home so, but my Master said, *Tom, we must not joke too far, he's a Man in good Business, and will honourably pay what he lost, so we will give him his Cloaths*; which was accordingly done, and he came the next Day, settled every Thing, and I put some more Money to the Note, and the Taylor made me a Suit of Cloaths, and did me Justice; but I would have every Person that is fond of Gaming to Excess, know he is fond of Villainy; and if he will give himself Time to consider, it will appear, that he who pretends a friendly Kindness for his Neighbour, and will say, *Jack, or Will, Come, we will go to such a House and spend the Evening*; the honest Man can't discern the Fraud, so easily consents, and when merry is imposed on, and so in Time proves the Destruction of himself and Family, for the Money he loses in that Manner stops his regular Course in Trade, - for Want of making his Payments good; then again it is soon published, his irregular Course of Life is most Times set forth worse than it is, to the entire Destruction of that unthinking Man that gives his Mind to gaming. As I said before, that Person that is so artful in gaming as to deceive his Companions, if he will but give himself Time to look into his Principle, it will appear very black.

As I have already observed my Mistress was very unhappy in her Temper, and I could not bear with it, and having a new Suit of Cloaths, and Money in my Pocket, gave Warning like a Fool, and left a good Place and an honest good Master in about three Months, and trudged to my Friend *Ned Langley, at Horsham in Sussex*; Tom, quoth Ned,

Ned, I have got a Wife for you ; I wonder'd at his Speech, for he had heard me often declare against Matrimony ; for this Reason, as I was a Brick-maker, I could not expect any thing beyond the Station I appear'd in, and if I should be so simple as to marry a Girl for the Sake of her round Face, black Eyes, or Cherry Cheeks, it would be a Means to compel me to be always poking about a Brick-Kiln, and this *Salisbury* Journey had confirm'd to me, that there was a better way to live in the World than what I had practis'd ; but *Ned* soon set me to Rights about this Wife ; it was an old Widow about seventy, and I was then I think not nineteen ; she lived in a pretty Manner, was worth thirteen or fourteen Hundred Pounds, as the Report run, and was not disagreeable only the Disparity in Years ; I lik'd his Motion, and concluded *Ned* should act the Part of a Servant to me ; but then, how to be introduc'd, was a grand Query ; but *Ned* had a Sister that knew the old Lady's Maid, and she brought *Ned* and the Maid together, and the Maid and *Ned* soon introduc'd me, and I was entertain'd much beyond what I expected, which made me begin to wonder and fear a Trick, but I had two Articles on my Side, for if the old Woman was worth any Thing, it was more than I deserved.

So I instantly observed the poor old Soul could not bite me, because she had ne'er a Tooth in her Head, which made her kifs mighty soft. We went on in a very pretty Manner, my Man and I seem'd to promise ourselves Success ; but there was a Lawyer in Town that lik'd the old Woman's Money, but not her Person ; but when he found she had a Liking to another Person, would set aside their Proceedings, and supercede all their Actions : The Lawyer had heard of my Amours, and thought it not proper to let me proceed any farther, for fear of Execution. He came one Day when I was

there, but was more of a Gentleman than to behave amiss to me, but came, as he said, to borrow twenty Pounds of my intended Spouse. She was willing to oblige him in any Thing, and daddled up Stairs with him, and seem'd to be long enough there to have tried a Cause. Oh! thinks I, this Lawyer hath signed, sealed, and delivered, it will be therefore in vain for me to think of cancelling the Bond, so took my Leave, and never saw her since; for I told my Friend *Ned*, I could see it would not do, for these Lawyers will bring their Sirafacies, and Writs of Error, &c. cheaper than other Persons. The Lawyer some Time after married her, but I heard it was a very unhappy Match; I took my Leave of my Friend *Ned* again, and got to be a Drawer at the *Busb-Inn* in *Oakingham*, in *Barkshire*, where I began to court a Lass about fifteen, and continued an Acquaintance with a married Woman, and I can certify it was a great Crime, by late Experience, for that Man can never make Satisfaction for that Injury, to the Person so injur'd; and that Woman that will give the Property of her Husband to another Man, in that Point, will rob him in any Manner, to support her and her Husband's greatest Enemies, and perhaps bring a Brood of Bastards into the World, to inherit her Husband's Estate, if any. If meeting with Return in this World will atone, I am well paid off for all such Actions.

For my Wife hath been gone from me better than three Years and a Half, but I can't say she hath played any bad Tricks, tho' I much fear she hath not been wise enough to act many good ones; be that as it will, I can't see I ought to repine at being a Cuckold, for *Pompey the Great* was so, by what I find, and many more brave Men that I have read of. I am thinking that if there were as many
just

just Men upon Earth, as there are Cuckolds, we should be more happy than we are ; but my Warrant is come down, so I must give a shorter Account than I proposed to have done.

I lived at this Place six Months, sold my Horse, and bought me a Watch : I did not work at Brick-making that Summer. I lived afterwards at the *Three Cranes* in *Leicester*, *King's-Head* in *Coventry*, and the next Summer went to Brick-making at *Henfield*, in *Sussex*, and that was the last Place I worked at Brick-making, for I think twenty-two Years. I thought once I was as far from working for my Bread as any Man whatever ; but you may see the glorious over-ruling Power knows what Steps are to be taken, to bring us to a Sense of our Duty, in order to make us acceptable ; for I fear the chiefest Part of Mankind wants Cultivation, as well as myself ; for to run continually with the Tide and a fair Wind, makes a Man a Stranger how to turn to Windward to gain his Port.

I went from thence to *Dover* in *Kent*, and was Drawer at the *Golden-Lyon* ; I had a good Master and Mistress, but was Fool enough to give Warning, would afterwards have stayed, but my Master very justly refused it.

I went from thence to the *King's-Head*, the Post-Office in *Canterbury*, and lived there about three Months, and began to consider of settling in the World ; by this I seemed to summons all my Judgment, and set my Mind on the Cook ; I observed she was a compleat Servant, and a Woman of good Sense, but about twelve or fourteen Years older than I, very personable, and had lived many Years there as Cook ; in about three Months we came to join Holy Matrimony, and then took the *Mitre and Horn* in *Canterbury*.

It

It is impossible for me to give her a better Character than she deserved, so just in her Dealings, fond of making Payments good, tender and indulgent to me to Excess, kind to her Neighbours and Servants: About this Time I began to learn the *French Horn*, and I got to be so much Master, that I was counted the best in the Country some Time after. I had not Wit enough, (according to Custom) with me, to respect my faithful Friends so well as I ought, but was for another Ramble, for I knew she was qualified to take Care of the House. The Horn I put up on Account of my performing on the Instrument; so I made Interest, and got into the Excise, was ordered into *Herefordshire*, served the Distillery there; in about seven Months I was ordered to *Canterbury* Collection; but at such a Distance could not come Home to see my Wife; and besides, had an Order from the Board, to quit my House or the Excise: I quitted, and came to my Wife, who was glad to have me with her, and I believe was partly the Cause of its being represented to the Board, for which I no ways blame her; I now began to be more famous for the Horn, and had several Scholars, used to go a Hunting frequently; 'Squire Rook, Son to Sir George Rook, had a Pack of Hounds in *Canterbury*, and sent to me to instruct him on the Horn, but it was more for me to attend him a Hunting, which I constantly did, and he proved a very good Friend; and I went on in a very pretty Manner, freighted a Vessel yearly with Salt-Fish and Red-Herrings, sometimes from *Margate*, and sometimes elsewhere, to the Port of *Bristol*, and back with Cyder and Bottles, &c. was easy when from Home, having so prudent a Partner at Home: I think I told 360 Customers in the Cyder Trade, but then some were but ten Shillings a Year, and some six or seven Pounds; I got Money fast enough,

enough, and work'd hard, but my Work was Pleasure, and it was not a little went through my Hands; but I hired a Sloop of about 60 Tons, about *November*; then I must buy my Salt-Fish and Red-Herrings to send in the Vessel, or by Land, to meet her at the Port of *Bristol*; when my Cyder came Home, I must cooper it, and prepare it for the Bottles; then I went to get Orders, and cork'd all myself, and tied most of it down, and pack'd most of it up to send Abroad with a Cart and two Horses, or one, as it happen'd; then of Course I must keep the Books, and gather in the Money; and yet for all this Business I cou'd attend *Squire Rook*, sometimes three Days in a Week a Hunting, but I generally used to have Notice the over Night where the Hunting was to be drawn; therefore I examin'd my Books to see if I could find any Money due, or Likelihood of Orders, for as I dealt for 16 or 18 Miles round, could always find Business and Pleasure jingled so well together, that no Man might have been more happy, well respected Abroad and at Home, and had a good industrious Wife, that managed in an easy, delightful Manner; I chanced to be longer one Year on my Voyage than common, and had the Sloop for that Voyage cheaper than could be afforded by about 20*l*. and to make the Master Amends, propos'd as we came Home to touch at *Guernsey*, which we did, and took in 100 Gallons of Brandy, and half a Hoghead of Rum, &c. the Captain was to have half the Profit from this, and I found the Money, for I could not compel him to go out of his Way, nor enter into any Trade of that Kind. We came to an Anchor off *Spithead*, and propos'd to run this Brandy and Rum ashore, and then touch at *Boulogne* in *France* for more; but our Design was soon discovered, and the Sloop brought into *Portsmouth* Harbour, and haled up to the Custom-House. I had never then been concerned in any Thing of that Kind, so was terribly frighten'd, and the Captain as much as I, and absconded; however I faced it, and they took the Brandy and Rum and 15 Pieces of Silk. I had taken some Pieces of Silk from a Gentleman of *Canterbury* on this Condition,

Condition, that what I could not dispose of should be returned as Cash; these 15 were left, and I not being used then to Frauds, and having an Affidavit annexed to a little Parcel taken by the Mayor of *Canterbury*, thought that enough; but it not being mentioned in the Dispatch, it was carried Ashore, and 1000 Whet-stone Rubbers; I got the Silk and Rubbers, but lost the Rum and Brandy: I was at *Portsmouth* about 20 Days, and got acquainted with a Person, whose Acquaintance, by Appearance, seems to have pointed out all my Misfortunes. We set sail with that Person and his Wife, as he called her, with the Cyder and Bottles, for they could not touch them, and we touched *Boulogne*, and took in seventy half Anchors of Brandy and Rum into *Dover*, and as soon as the Weather would permit, came down to *Whistable*, and they were all run Ashore, and brought into my Care, the chiefeft Part into my Warehouse, and the Cyder according to Custom; in a little Time I had a Seizure made of 18 half Anchors, and was fined 30*l*. I was confused at this: With paying the Expences of such an unlucky Voyage, as Cyder, Bottles, Rum, and Freight, I was out of Cash; but a good Neighbour, *William Chambers* of *Canterbury* (Uncle to the Boy I desire should have the Benefit of this my Life) gave a Note for the Payment, which Note I discharged well; when the Man to whom I lay all my Misfortunes, told me Tobacco Stalks was a fine Article, but so bulky it could not be run like Brandy and Tea; when he had laid the Thing down, that an Article could be brought from 5 Pounds to 45, I began to prick up my Ears, and look round for a good Situation, where to build a Country Seat; *Oh! Oh!* said I, *my Boy, I'll bring them to Market*; and so I did; in Defiance of the general Surveyors, Inspectors, Excisemen, &c. which is too well known for my Satisfaction. I had not been brought to a Sense of the Crime I committed, not so much for defrauding the Government and fair Trader, and yet that must be allowed to be a Crime, but somebody must be perjured to bring these Goods to Market; and pray let any considerate Person think how terrible the Consequence must be, when they bring the glorious supreme Being of all the World to witness a Lye; Fools will think as I did, why, it is but a Custom-house Oath, pray beware of that Oath as well as all others; if not, when the Books are cast up you'll find a sad Account against you. We

We went on in this Manner, deluded the Country Officers, and puzzled the *London* Grand Office, but it broke out at last, as mostly such Things do; so I was forced to fly from Home, and lived two or three Years without doing any Business, my Wife died, and I saw my Absence and Misconduct hasten'd her Death. I contracted a Friendship after this with a young Woman, and lived with her about three Years, tho' we were not married, she proved more of a Wife than this I am married to; we went into *Somersetshire* and lived at *Ilchester*, where I made *English* Wines; when my dear Wife was buried I went from Home again, for I knew there was an Information against me, and I hired a Sloop at *Parkgate*, near *West Chester*, and tho' the honourable Commissioners of the Customs had sent circular Letters to prevent the shipping of Tobacco-Stalks all over *England*, I played the old Game on them, and robb'd them, by going to *Carmarthen* in *Wales*. I clear'd by that about 150*l.* had a deal of Trouble in it, for we were stopp'd at *Woodbridge* in *Suffolk*, tho' I had a proper Dispatch, and went to the Custom-house myself to deliver it, and got an Order to put the Goods Ashore. Why, Sir, saith the Collector, we have a Letter from the Commissioners, that there is a great Fraud carried on by Tobacco-Stalks, so must stop the Ship. I had an Information against me at the same Time, and was glad to get off; the Officers acted an artful Part to get to Windward of me, but in vain. I had no Money when we came to *Woodbridge*, nor none had any on Board; it is not common to bring much Money from *France*, but we was too bare this Time; I borrowed enough to carry me to *London*, and ordered that the Men should have what they pleased to eat and drink, and I would pay it; the Man that kept the Alehouse was well satisfied when I left him, and justly considered if I was able to maintain a Sloop of 70 Tons, I must be able to pay him.

Well, as soon as I was gone the Officers perswaded the Publican not to trust my Men for Fear he should never be paid, but the true Meaning was, they wanted to starve them into a Confession; in a few Days after, it was found out I was *Munn* of *Canterbury*; well, then they was certain there must be a Fraud, but no coming at it but by the Men, and no Way to do this Piece of Conjurati

so well as by starving the Men and ridiculing me ; and this was done with a Vengeance ; down came the Officers thundering, and prevailed on the Man at the Ale-house to give no farther Credit ; so my poor honest Creatures were forced to pick their Living off the Hedges, and be contented with Apples and Scadds, for it was in *September* while I was at Work in *London*, and knew nothing of this Matter ; they could not gain their Point for all this, the Captain and all the rest were content to live in any Manner rather than hurt me ; they were all true Men, By and by down comes another Broadside of Lies from the Officers, that I should never come to pay the Captain, and they should soon have an Order to burn Ship and Cargo, and the Men would soon be sent to Prison, except they told all, and I was to be strangely punished, if I could be found. Well, all this would not do, they had their Lesson from me, and stuck close to it ; then there was a Meeting of Officers, and they sent for the Captain, and seemed to pity him, and would do what they could to save his Vessel, &c. they made him drunk, and all would not do, so the true Hearts lived in this Manner 14 or 15 Days, before I could get any Money from *Canterbury*, and sent it to them ; when they heard from me the Tables were turned, and a little after I had an Order for the Goods and Vessel, I don't doubt but they had a Capeus ready for me at *Woodbridge*, and expected me, but I bobb'd them in that, and sent for my Men to meet me at *Ipswich*, where I paid the Captain, and gave him 7 Guineas more than the Contract, the Men a Guinea each, and the Boy Half a Guinea, treated them handsomely, and I have never seen them since. I was much to blame, I did not stick to those true Blues, but my Boy *Thomas* was almost ready to come into the World, and I left Business to spend the Money I had got by this Voyage. About this Time I had Occasion to go to *Canterbury*, my Warehouse which I gave 100*l.* for I had mortgaged, and afterwards sold it for 130*l.* there was the Interest due for 2 or 3 Years, and I having Money, was willing to go and settle that and other Business. I took Horse at *Kensington*, and went over *Fulham-Bridge*, and came out near *New-Cross* Turnpike ; when I came to the Turnpike, the Man said, ' Don't go over *Black-Heath* To-night, for the *Canterbury* Coaches are both robb'd.' Just as he spoke, a
Man

Man came up and, said he was going to *Welling*. I said, 'Well, stick close to me my Boy, and we'll venture;' and by the Description saw the Highwayman a little out of the Road. I was well mounted, and got down to *Chatham* that Night, and carried the News down the Road, and People not knowing how I came by my Money, and giving so just an Account of the Robbery, a *Canterbury* Gentleman said, he thought he had seen the Man at *Canterbury* several Times, and my not appearing in Publick for Fear of this Information, made it be currently reported I robb'd the Coaches; I solemnly declare, I was never concerned in any Robbery whatsoever, as I hope to appear in Peace before the glorious Majesty of God, except this (robbing the *Yarmouth* Mail) for which I shall soon suffer.

After I had settled my Affairs at *Canterbury*, I went to *Norchester* with my Wife, and dealt in made Wines, but not so largely as I did at *Canterbury*; but finding it would not do, I left her, and hired a Brig at *Bridgwater* in *Somersetshire*, intending to follow the old Trade of a Tobacco-Stalk Merchant; but when I came to *France* the Stalks were nine Pounds a Ton, and I being short of Cash, had not Money enough to buy a sufficient Quantity to make it answer, so informed the Master of the Vessel he must take in some other Goods for Freight, and I bought Tea with what Money I had, which we landed at *Yarmouth*, and got safe from the Officers. After this I rambled about *Yarmouth*, *Ipswich*, and *Colchester* for half a Year, dealing in Tea, Brandy, &c. sometimes playing at Cards, when I could take the Countrymen in for four or five Pounds of a Night. At a Country Fair I met a young Fellow and his Sweetheart, which I got from him. She being a pretty plump red Face Girl, with black Eyes, and very agreeable, I kept her about three Weeks, and then we parted. My Money being almost gone, I was determined to try my old Brick-making Business again, and accordingly travelled to *Chelmsford*, from thence to *Brentwood* in *Essex*, at and near which Place I work'd all last Summer, and went on pretty sober; but, as before, I delighted in playing at Cards, and shewing Tricks upon them, to get the young Fellows to play a Game, which I commonly made them pay for. I then work'd at a Gentleman's House between *Brentwood* and *Rum-*

sord, got acquainted with *Hall* about a Month, and he work'd as a Labourer to me; but Money did not come so fast as I wanted, therefore told *Hall* I could find a Way to make us both rich very soon, which was to rob the *Yarmouth* Mail, and take out the Bank Notes, Bills, &c. Accordingly we agreed to attack the Man that carried the Mail, which we did the next Morning, being the 20th of *July*, 1749, about one o'Clock, near the fifteen Mile-Stone between *Brentwood* and *Rumford*. As we were going to tie his Arms together he (being a very stout Fellow) rush'd from us and run away, but *Hall* pursued him, and when I came up he had got *Hall* down under him; then we both fell upon him with great Sticks, in the Shape of Pistols, dragg'd him into a Field, beat him most unmercifully, and left him, as we thought, dead (however he liv'd some Time after, and died of the Small-Pox at *Ingatestone*.) I then took the Letters and travelled to *Poplar*, went to the *Angel and Crown*, there got a Room to myself, open'd the Bags, and began to open the Letters, but dropt fast a-sleep, and the People seeing the Letters through the Windows, came in, and took me immediately before Justice *Quarrill*, who, on the Oaths of *John Ismay* and *Joseph Wright*, and also on my own Confession, committed me to *Newgate*. The next Day, I hear'd that *John Hall*, who was concern'd with me in robbing the Mail, was taken at the *Cock* at *Eastham*, and committed to *Chelmsford* Jail. *Newgate* was a Place I did not much like, and often threatned to send the Keeper Warning; however, I was obliged to stay 'till the Affizes at *Chelmsford*, to which Place I was conveyed in a Post-Chaise, and was accordingly condemned with *John Hall*. I have been taxed with divers Robberies, and, in particular, with robbing the *Chester* Mail; but, as I said before, I never was concerned in any but this; and, as my Execution is within a few Hours, I must leave of, and advise every Person to live, if possible, by a fair Way of Trade, for not one in ten proves successful by smuggling. Having now finished my Life, I have delivered it to Mr. *Venden* Turnkey of the Jail, and desire he will have it printed.

John Hall, alias *Rich*, commonly call'd the *Proud Spaniard*, aged 24, was born at *Lemmish*, near *Clare* in *Suffolk*, of poor, but honest Parents, who gave him no Education, for he could not read, and was a poor Wretch; he

he began soon to steal Things of small Value, as once a Leg of Pork, also Fowls, &c. but never concerned in any Robbery but this, and was over-perswaded by *Munn* to attempt it, he went to *London* with one of the Bank Notes taken out of the Mail, bought some Plate, and got it changed, and was the next Day taken at the *Cook* at *East-Ham*.

The Morning of their Execution, *Munn's* and *Hall* were taken separately out of their confined Room, and had their Fetters knocked off, after which they had each of them Iron Hand-cuffs put on, and the Minister came to pray by them; about Eleven o'Clock they walk'd to Church, as is usual, and from thence to the Place of Execution, where *Munn's* informed Mr. *Venden*, the Turnkey, he was prepar'd to die, and had nothing to say to the Spectators but what he had before wrote: He desired the Prayer-book to read to *John Hall*, as he could not read himself; they both owned the Fact, and Justice of their Sentence, and call'd on God to have Mercy on them: Then *Munn's* desired Mr. *Venden* to take care his Life should be published, as before-mentioned. They were then turn'd off, and after hanging the usual Time, were brought back to the Jail, where their Irons were fixed on, and the next-Morning early carried to the Common where the Gibbet was fixed, near *Rumford* Gallows, and there hung in Chains, pursuant to their Sentence.

F I N I S.

